

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
/069 W

-----040044Z 003452 /67

R 031028Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1650  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3104

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN  
SUBJECT: THE PAKISTAN ELECTIONS--AN INDIAN OFFICIAL VIEW

REF: ISLAMABAD 2041

1. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOINT SECRETARY (PAKISTAN)  
I.P. SINGH TOLD POLCOUNSELOR AND EMBOFF ON MARCH 2 THAT MEA ASSESS-  
MENT OF PAKISTAN ELECTION WAS THAT BHUTTO WOULD WIN, BUT THAT HE  
IS IN CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE AND LOSING STRENGTH WITH EACHPASSING  
DAY. SINGH SAID THAT HE FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT BHUTTO  
WOULD PERMIT HIMSELF TO BE OUSTED. HE ADMITTED THAT THE PAKISTAN  
LEADER WOULD FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO USE THE RESOURCES  
OF THE GOVT TO PRESERVE HIS POSITION, BUT HE STILL THOUGHT BHUTTO  
WOULD PREVAIL. SINGH SAID THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE REPORTS  
OF THE OPPOSITION'S MASSIVE KARACHI RALLY, AND THE APPARENT  
CONFIDENCE OF OPPOSITION LEADER ASGHAR KHAN IN TELLING HIS FOLLOW-  
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ERS THAT HE WAS THE SOURCE OF ALL AUTHORITY, A STATEMENT SINGH  
INTERPRETED AS KHAN'S WAY OF INFORMING HIS FOLLOWERS THAT THE  
ARMY AND SERVICES WERE WITH THE OPPOSITION.

2. TURNING TO THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE ELECTIONS, SINGH  
SAID THE GOI WAS PLEASED THAT PAKISTAN-INDIA RELATIONS HAVE NOT  
BECOME AN ISSUE. HE SAID THE MEA WAS AWARE THAT OPPOSITION POLI-

TICIANS, INCLUDING ASGHAR KHAN WHO ON ONE OCCASION CALLED FOR THE ABROGATION OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, MADE THE ODD ANTI-INDIAN SPEECH, BUT ON THE WHOLE THE MEA FOUND THAT BHUTTO HIMSELF HAD USED THE INDIA ISSUE MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THE OPPOSITION. SINGH WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT BHUTTO REQUIRED IT TO JUSTIFY THE OPPOSITION CRITICISM OF THE DEBT PAKISTAN INCURRED, OBLIGATIONS BHUTTO SAID WERE UNERTAKEN TO MEET SECURITY NEEDS--DEFENSE AGAINST INDIA. (AS IF TO BALANCE THIS LEFT-HANDED CRITICISM, SINGH TWICE REFERRED TO BHUTTO'S COURAGE IN DEALING WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS.)

3. SINGH DID NOT FORESEE ANY PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH PAKISTAN WERE BHUTTO TO WIN ONLY A THIN MAJORITY. HE WILL TAKE CARE TO EXPAND THAT, SINGH COMMENTED. SHOULD THE OPPOSITION WIN, SINGH SAID HE STILL DID NOT SEE ANY BASIS CHANGE IN THE RELATIONSHIP. HE THOUGHT THAT KHAN AND HIS GROUP MIGHT BE MORE NATIONALISTIC AND PERHAPS MORE CAUTIOUS IN DEALING WITH PROBLEMS INVOLVING INDIA, BUT HE STILL DID NOT THINK THEY WOULD REVERSE THE OVERALL TREND SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, ELECTION FORECASTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NEWDE03104  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 ISLAMABAD 2041  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE PAKISTAN ELECTIONS--AN INDIAN OFFICIAL VIEW  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PK, IN, (SINGH, I P)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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